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ROTHBURY RURAL DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

1965

ROTHBURY RURAL DISTRICT

A N N U A L R E P O R T

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

SURVEYOR AND PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

1965

To the Chairman and Members of the Rothbury Rural District Council

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report on the Health and sanitary conditions of the Rothbury Rural District which relates to the year 1965.

There are considerable variations from the previous year in the vital statistics. There was a sizeable drop in the birth rate, and 67 births were notified as against 93 in the previous year. The rate expressed per 1,000 is 12.57 and this is considerably lower than the national average.

The overall death rate was higher than in the previous year, but not significantly so, as in all statistics dealing with relatively small numbers, considerable yearly fluctuations are bound to occur. The established pattern of the causes of death was again shown in 1965, i.e. nearly half of the deaths were due to cardio vascular lesions and one death in six was due to malignant causes.

It is unfortunate to record that there were 4 infant deaths in 1965, whereas during the previous three years, there had been none. These 4 infant deaths were due to gross congenital disorders and prematurity and are examples of the hard core of infant mortality which will be extremely difficult to eradicate.

The pattern of infectious diseases shows little difference from 1964. There were a few notifications of measles and pneumonia. Unfortunately three cases of whooping cough occurred and this, despite the intensive immunisation programmes undertaken.

The incidence of tuberculosis remained more or less static; as in the previous year there were three notifications; evidence that the disease still smoulders on within the community, although it is gradually getting less and less.

The immunisation and vaccination rates in the district are satisfactory.

The Public Health Inspector in his report, mentions the new water supply to Harbottle and Alwinton. This is a welcome step as this source has previously given rise to many complaints.

It is satisfactory to note, the slow but steady progress in providing sewage disposal units in the villages of the district.

Housing presents few problems in the district, and it should be noted that the continual improvements to premises from the use of standard and discretionary grants has a very useful purpose in raising the overall housing standards.

In conclusion, I would like to express my sincere thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee, the Clerk of the Council, and the Public Health Inspector for their interest and support for the past year.

I have the honour to be,
Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,

J. A. McDonald

Medical Officer of Health

GENERAL STATISTICS

The area of the district was 167,186 acres.

The number of inhabited houses was 2,132 and the number of new houses completed during the year was 16.

The rateable value was £154,500 and the sum represented by a penny rate was £587.

The estimated mid-year population was 5,330 and this figure was taken when calculating the Birth and Death rate.

VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	32	32	64
Illegitimate	2	1	3
Totals	34	33	67

Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 population	12.57
Crude Birth Rate multiplied by Comparability Factor	14.83
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births	4.47

Still Births			
Legitimate	-	-	-
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Totals	-	-	-

Stillbirth rate per 1,000 total live and still births	-
Total live and still births	67

Infant Deaths (deaths under one year)			
Legitimate	2	2	4
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Totals	2	2	4

Infant Mortality Rates	
Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births	59.70
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births	62.50
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births	-

Neo-natal Mortality Rate	
Deaths under four weeks per 1,000 total live births	59.70

Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate	
Deaths under one week per 1,000 total live births	59.70

Perinatal Mortality Rate	
Stillbirths and Deaths under one week combined per 1,000 total live and still births	59.70

Maternal Mortality (including abortion)	
Number of deaths	-
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births	-

Deaths	Males	Females	Total
	41	38	79
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 population			14.82
Crude Death Rate multiplied by Comparability Factor			12.15
Deaths from Puerperal Sepsis			-
Deaths from Other Puerperal Causes			-
Deaths from Cancer			13

CHIEF CAUSES OF DEATH

	Males	Females	Total
Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	-	-	-
Tuberculosis (Other)	-	-	-
Syphilitic Disease	-	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-	-
Meningococcal Infections	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-
Measles	-	-	-
Other Infective and parasitic diseases	-	-	-
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	-	2	2
" " Lung, Bronchus	1	1	2
" " Breast	-	1	1
" " Uterus	-	1	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	6	1	7
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	-	-	-
Diabetes	-	1	1
Vascular Lesions of the Nervous System	5	8	13
Coronary Disease, Angina	13	8	21
Hypertension with Heart Disease	-	-	-
Other Heart Disease	3	4	7
Other Circulatory Disease	1	2	3
Influenza	-	-	-
Pneumonia	3	-	3
Bronchitis	3	1	4
Other diseases of Respiratory System	-	-	-
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	-	1	1
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	-	-	-
Nephritis and Nephrosis	-	-	-
Hyperplasia of Prostate	-	-	-
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	-	-	-
Congenital Malformations	-	-	-
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	3	3	6
Motor Vehicle Accidents	2	-	2
All Other Accidents	1	4	5
Suicide	-	-	-
Homicide and Operations of War	-	-	-
Totals	41	38	79

INFANT MORTALITY 1919-1938 and 1949-1965

Year	Number of Infant Deaths	Infant Mortality per 1,000 Live Births	Infant Mortality England and Wales
1919	2	26.00	89
1920	8	80.10	80
1921	6	60.00	83
1922	1	12.00	77
1923	2	24.00	69
1924	2	25.00	75
1925	1	12.18	75
1926	3	33.30	70
1927	6	95.00	69
1928	7	96.00	65
1929	-	-	74
1930	3	62.50	60
1931	1	12.60	66
1932	3	60.00	65
1933	1	16.10	64
1934	1	12.80	59
1935	7	111.00	57
1936	1	14.08	59
1937	1	12.50	58
1938	-	-	53
1949	4	45.90	32
1950	2	26.60	30
1951	2	23.20	30
1952	-	-	28
1953	1	9.50	27
1954	-	-	25
1955	3	42.25	24.9
1956	1	11.36	24.9
1957	1	12.50	23.1
1958	-	-	22.5
1959	2	20.20	20.7
1960	-	-	21.7
1961	3	36.58	21.4
1962	-	-	21.4
1963	-	-	20.9
1964	-	-	20.9
1965	4	59.70	21

POPULATION

YEAR	POPULATION	YEAR	POPULATION	YEAR	POPULATION
1919	5,600	1932	5,660	1954	5,580
1920	5,507	1933	5,627	1955	5,560
1921	5,968	1934	5,712	1956	5,560
1922	5,963	1935	5,692	1957	5,520
1923	6,011	1936	5,687	1958	5,520
1924	6,093	1937	5,629	1959	5,510
1925	5,959	1938	5,561	1960	5,510
1926	5,877	1939-48	Not Published	1961	5,330
1927	5,877	1949	5,680	1962	5,330
1928	5,808	1950	5,679	1963	5,320
1929	5,888	1951	5,507	1964	5,370
1930	5,767	1952	5,574	1965	5,330
1931	5,615	1953	5,567		

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Scarlet Fever	1
Whooping Cough	3
Diphtheria	-
Measles	15
Pneumonia	6
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	-
Enteric Fever	-
Erysipelas	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	-
Dysentery	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-
Smallpox	-
Paratyphoid Fever	-
Food Poisoning	-
Encephalitis	-

TUBERCULOSIS

Age Groups	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0-15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15-25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25-45	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45-65	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
65+	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-

IMMUNISATION

North No. 2

	Primary Immunisation							Secondary (Reinforcing) Injections						
	Under 1	1	2	3	4-7	8-16	Total	Under 1	1	2	3	4-7	8-16	Total
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Tetanus	152	258	20	9	2	-	441	-	5	194	31	77	5	312
Diphtheria and Tetanus	1	2	-	1	11	-	15	-	2	47	11	286	8	354
Tetanus	-	-	-	-	3	2	5	-	-	-	-	3	8	11
Total	153	260	20	10	16	2	461	-	7	241	42	366	22	678

SMALLPOX VACCINATION

North No. 2

Number Vaccinated during Period					Number Re-vaccinated				
Under 1	1	2-4	5-15	Total	Under 1	1	2-4	5-15	Total
60	142	43	11	256	-	4	8	36	48

POLIOMYELITIS VACCINATION

North No. 1 and 2 Areas

The following table shows the number of persons vaccinated against poliomyelitis during the year ended 31st December, 1966.

	Number of Persons
3 Doses - Oral Vaccine	999
Booster dose oral	1,094

B.C.G. VACCINATIONS

North No. 2

Alnwick U.D.	245
Alnwick R.D.	-
Amble U.D.	121
Rothbury R.D.	59
Total	425

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

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WATER SUPPLIES

Since 1962, the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company have been responsible for the supply and distribution of water in this district. A new supply for Harbottle and Alwinton was provided during the year, the old springs being discontinued. Regular sampling is carried out to ensure wholesome supplies.

The number of dwelling houses supplied from public mains is set out in the following table. All are supplied direct to the house.

Parish	No. of Houses	Approx. Population
Alwinton	17	59
Brinkburn	23	62
Cartington	3	9
Elsdon	49	134
Harbottle	45	122
Hepple	17	58
Longframlington	233	580
Rothbury	667	1795
Thropton	100	251
Tosson	17	42
Whittingham	86	245
Totals	1257	3357

SEWERAGE DISPOSAL

The disposal works at Longframlington, Whittingham, Wingates and the Council houses at Thropton, continue to function satisfactorily. Constant care and maintenance is however necesarry at the small works to achieve satisfactory results owing to the considerable variation in the rate of flow to the works.

The plans and details of the modification and extension to the works and sewers at Rothbury were submitted to the Ministry in 1965, and a visit made by one of the Department's Inspectors on 13th October, 1965.

Your Consulting Engineers have been asked to prepare a scheme of sewers and sewage disposal for Thropton and this is expected early in 1966.

The plans of the proposed works at Hepple have been submitted to the Ministry. The proposals have been approved, but the Ministry will not allow work to proceed owing to the restrictions on capital expenditure.

HOUSING

During the year work commenced on 12 houses at Whittingham, and 8 were completed and occupied by 31st December, 1965. The 4 old persons houses at Thropton were completed during the year.

The Minister granted the Council's Appeal for the use of waste land in Church Street, Longframlington, and work commenced on the 4 old persons houses.

The number of Council Houses is 302.

Four private houses were built during the year.

Twenty four houses were made fit during the year as a result of informal action.

Housing (Financial Provisions) Act 1958
Housing Purchase and Housing Act 1959
Housing Act 1961

A. Discretionary Grants

Applications submitted during the year	11
Applications rejected	Nil
Applications approved	11
Approx. average grant per house 1965	£249
Total number of houses approved for grant since inception of scheme	348

B. Standard Grants

	During the year	Total to date
Number of houses for which grants have been made	1	28
Number of houses so provided with		
a) bath or shower	1	20
b) wash hand basin	1	21
c) hot water supply	1	13
d) water closet	1	27
e) food store	1	13
Average grant per house 1965	£117	

In addition one house received grants under the Hill Farming or Livestock Rearing Acts.

REFUSE DISPOSAL

All properties in the district with the exception of some in the hills, have a weekly or fortnightly collection. The service operates smoothly. Two seven cubic yard vehicles and five men are employed.

CARAVANS

The demand for sites shows no signs of abating. A new site to hold 50 is proposed by a private owner at Whitton, Rothbury. This should be a welcome addition when fully established.

FOOD

The Council is able to maintain 100% inspection of meat, as required by the Meat Inspection Regulations, 1963. Mr. D. J. Macpherson, M.R.C.V.S. gives the necessary cover in my absence.

During the year 1,544 carcases were examined (343 beast, 197 pigs, 1,002 sheep and 2 calves).

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

	Type of Property - Non-Agricultural				Agricultural
	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses	All other (Including Business Premises)	Total of Columns 1, 2 and 3	
1. Number of properties in district	12	1874	118	2004	241
2. Number of properties inspected as a result of:-					
(a) Notifications	-	33	3	36	-
(b) Survey under the Act	12	-	-	12	-
(c) Otherwise (e.g. when visited primarily for some other purpose)	-	-	14	14	-
3. Total inspections carried out including re-inspections	99	113	9	221	-
4. Number of properties inspected which were found to be infested by:-					
(a) Rats	4	33	9	40	-
(b) Mice	-	-	-	-	-
5. Number of infested properties treated by Local Authority	4	33	3	40	-
6. Total treatments carried out including re-treatments	99	113	9	221	-

FACTORIES ACT 1937 & 1948

Part 1 of the Act

1. INSPECTIONS for purpose of provisions as to health

Premises	Number on Register	Number of Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(1) Factories in which Sec. 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by the Local Authority	1	-	-	-
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	19	7	-	-
(3) Other premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (Excluding out-workers' premises)	3	3	-	-
Totals	23	10	-	-

2. DEFECTS FOUND None

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

This Act, brought into force during 1964, makes provision for the safety, health and welfare of people employed in these kind of premises.

Registration and General Inspections

Class of Premises	Number of premises registered during the year	Total number of registered premises at end of year	Number of Registered premises receiving a general inspection during the year
Offices	-	8	6
Retail Shops	-	21	12
Wholesale Shops, Warehouses	-	1	-
Catering establishments open to public, canteens.	1	6	6
Fuel Storage Depots	-	1	-
Totals	1	37	24

Analysis of Persons Employed

Class of Workplace	Number of Persons Employed
Offices	20
Retail Shops	71
Wholesale departments, warehouses	3
Catering establishments open to the Public	24
Canteens	-
Fuel Storage Depots	1
TOTAL	119
Total Males	38
Total Females	81